

## Message Text

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UNCLAS STATE 041545 TOSEC 040136

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SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT WALL STREET JOURNAL EDITORIAL, FRI-  
DAY, FEBRUARY 20, HEADED, "KISSINGER IN LATIN AMERICA."

2. SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER'S CURRENT VISIT TO LATIN  
AMERICA WILL NO DOUBT RESULT IN WARMER RELATIONS BETWEEN  
THE HEMISPHERIC NEIGHBORS, AT LEAST FOR A WHILE. THE VISIT  
HAD BEEN POSTPONED FOUR TIMES, BUT NOW THAT IT IS TAKING  
PLACE, LATIN OFFICIALS ARE GENERALLY PLEASED THAT A HIGH  
U.S. OFFICIAL IS VISITING, HELPING TO REVERSE WHAT THEY  
REGARDED AS A U.S. POLICY OF NEGLECT.

3. THE STATE DEPARTMENT WISELY MINIMIZED ANY EFFECTS THE  
TRIP IS LIKELY TO PRODUCE, IMPLYING THAT IT IS LARGELY  
SYMBOLIC. BUT THE ITINERARY -- COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA,  
VENEZUELA, PERU AND BRAZIL -- IS RATHER WELL BALANCED  
GEOGRAPHICALLY AND POLITICALLY. AND THE STOPOVER IN GUATE-  
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MALA, THE VICTIM OF THE RECENT TERRIBLE EARTHQUAKE, IS

DESIGNED TO REAFFIRM U.S. COMPASSION OF THE KIND LATIN NATIONS OFTEN FORGET WHEN THEY ARE BUSY INVEIGHING AGAINST THE YANKEE COLOSSUS.

4. IF NOTHING ELSE, THE KISSINGER VISIT MAY REMIND AMERICANS OF THE DANGERS OF GENERALIZING ABOUT LATIN AMERICA, AS THOUGH IT WERE A SINGLE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ENTITY. BUT BLAME FOR THE TENDENCY TO TREAT ALL OF LATIN AMERICA AS BASICALLY ALIKE RESTS IN PART WITH THE LATIN NATIONS THEMSELVES. FOR EXAMPLE, THE PRONOUNCEMENTS THAT CAME OUT OF THE RECENT CARACAS MEETING OF MINISTERS OF THE COUNTRIES THAT MAKE UP THE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM (SELA) CONVEYED AN IMPRESSION OF UNIFORM CONDEMNATION OF UNCLE SAM, FOR SOMEHOW THWARTING A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER BASED ON THE EQUALITY AND SOVEREIGNTY OF ALL STATES.

5. IN FACT, HOWEVER, MOST OF THE CRITICISM CAME FROM ONLY FOUR NATIONS, EACH WITH AN INDIVIDUAL REASON TO BE HOSTILE TO THE U.S. ONE, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS COMMUNIST CUBA. AND MEXICO, WHOSE PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA WAS UNTIL RECENTLY TRYING TO INGRATiate HIMSELF WITH "THIRD WORLD" NATIONS IN AN EFFORT TO LAND THE SECRETARY GENERALSHIP OF THE UNITED NATIONS. ANOTHER WAS PANAMA, WHICH WANTS TO TAKE OVER THE CANAL. THE FINAL CRITIC WAS VENEZUELA, WHICH IS MIFFED AT WASHINGTON'S DENIAL OF PREFERENTIAL TRADE TREATMENT BECAUSE OF ITS MEMBERSHIP IN OPEC.

6. FOR THE MOST PART, THOUGH, THE OTHER LATIN NATIONS ARE EITHER RELATIVELY FRIENDLY TOWARD THE U.S. OR AT LEAST UNWILLING TO BLAME WASHINGTON FOR ALL THEIR OWN SHORTCOMINGS. AND BRAZIL, BY FAR THE LARGEST LATIN NATION, IS NOW DISCOVERING WHAT IT IS LIKE TO BE THE OBJECT OF SUSPICION AND ENVY BY SMALLER AND LESS RICHLY ENDOWED NATIONS, WHO ARE EXHIBITING TOWARD IT SOME OF THE SAME KIND OF SUSPICION THAT HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN RESERVED FOR THE U.S.

7. AT TIMES, OF COURSE, WASHINGTON COULD BE A BETTER NEIGHBOR. THE TRADE LEGISLATION CENTERING ON OPEC CLEARLY IS PREPOSTEROUS, SINCE NEITHER VENEZUELA NOR ECUADOR JOINED THE 1973 OIL EMBARGO. MR. KISSINGER EXPRESSED TO HIS

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VENEZUELAN HOSTS THE HOPES THAT CONGRESS WOULD CORRECT ITS MISTAKES, AND ALSO POINTED OUT TO THEM THE NEED TO MAINTAIN A GOOD INVESTMENT CLIMATE, A WARNING NO DOUBT RELEVANT TO THEIR NATIONALIZATION OF U.S. OIL COMPANIES.

8. BUT IN GENERAL BOTH SIDES OF THE RELATIONSHIP SEEM TO BE REACHING FOR A NEW MATURITY. WASHINGTON NO LONGER HOLDS THE NOTION, SO BLATANT IN THE ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS,

THAT IT HAS ALL THE ANSWERS TO OTHER NATIONS' PROBLEMS.  
AND INCREASINGLY THE LATINS RECOGNIZE THAT WASHINGTON IS  
NEITHER THEIR SALAVATION NOR THE SEAT OF ALL THEIR WOES.

9. MR. KISSINGER'S TRIP WILL BE A SUCCESS IF HE ADVANCES  
THIS MATURITY, LISTENING ATTENTIVELY TO LATIN COMPLAINTS  
AND LEAVING HIS HOSTS WITH AN UNDERSTANDING THAT THE U.S.  
IS SYMPATHETIC BUT NECESSARILY LIMITED IN WHAT IT CAN DO.  
THE BEST KIND OF A GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY IS TO REITERATE  
THAT SALVATION ULTIMATELY LIES WITH EACH NATION'S OWN  
GOVERNMENT AND OWN INSTITUTIONS. (END TEXT) INGERSOLL

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